

The Democratic package was the better of the two. It was much less expensive in the outyears, better targeted to the middle class, and it provided significant tax relief for families and their education expenses. Education is a key investment in our young people's future, but it currently is one of the least favored areas in the tax code.

so overall I voted for this tax cut package in order to move the process along, with the hope of improving it as it moves through the next stages of the legislative process. Improvements in the bill can yet be made in a joint House-Senate conference committee by targeting more of the cuts to moderate-income families; reducing its outyear costs; simplifying it so we don't greatly increase the complexity of the tax code; and providing that if for some reason we won't be reaching a balanced budget by 2002, then some of the tax cuts should be trimmed back.

In short, I support a balanced budget plan. Although tax cuts should not be our top priority, the issue today is not whether to cut taxes, but who gets the tax cuts. My view is that the Republican bill disproportionately benefits the rich. We need to better target tax cuts to moderate-income families and capital gains and estate tax reductions to small businesses and family farms. I have been most uneasy about the pattern of this and the previous Congress to cut programs for the poor and provide tax cuts for the rich. That is the wrong legacy to leave, and the wrong way to balance the budget.

DR. CARIDAD PEREZ: EDUCATOR
AND HUMANITARIAN

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Dr. Caridad Perez for all of the stellar and selfless years of work that she has dedicated to south Florida's children. As an educator by occupation, I have known Dr. Perez for many years and have seen the positive outcome of all of her efforts.

After arriving in the United States upon fleeing the Castro regime, Dr. Perez wasted no time in dedicating herself to doing what she does best, educating children. Twenty-eight years ago she founded Edison Private School, starting with only one student. Today, Edison Private School has many alumni who went on to pursue different careers and are now successful members of south Florida's community.

In addition to running Edison Private School, Dr. Perez has made a great name for herself in the business community. She is the president of three different corporations; a real estate company and a business geared toward school transportation, in addition to her school. For her great success in the business world, she was recognized as Businesswoman of the Year by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in 1993.

Perhaps one of Dr. Perez's greatest achievements has been her work and dedication toward helping children through UNICEF. She serves as the honorary chairman and member at large of the Greater Miami Committee For UNICEF.

I applaud Dr. Perez for her determination to get ahead, her discipline to persevere and her selfless dedication to those children who are in need of a leader and savior.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, on July 8, 1997, I attended the NATO Summit as one of four Members of the House of Representatives in the American delegation. As a result, I missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 246, H.R. 849—"yea"; rollcall No. 247, Senate Joint Resolution 29—"yea"; rollcall No. 248, H.R. 1658—"yea"; and rollcall No. 250, H.R. 2016—"yea."

STAND DOWN '97

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to an extraordinary group of people dedicated to an honorable cause, our veterans. Each year for the past 5 years, Stand Down, a comprehensive program designed to help homeless veterans reenter mainstream society, offers a 3-day program to provide the services necessary to help veterans achieve this assimilation. This year, Stand Down '97 will be held July 25–27 in Ventura, CA.

Stand Down provides a wide range of services to homeless veterans including medical and legal assistance, employment counseling, mental health services, financial counseling, personal hygiene, substance abuse counseling, AIDS stress and information on exposure to agent orange. The veterans also receive donated shoes, clothing, shelter, food and are treated to performances by the USO.

Since the program began in 1993, over 700 veterans have been assisted in Ventura County through the tireless efforts of volunteers and the executive committee. I would like to take the opportunity to commend the organizers of this program. They are: Clair Hope, Sharon Dwyer, Judge John Dobroth, Jim Grunnert, Jean Farley, Mary Fielder, Todd Howeth, Dwayne Dammeyer, J. Rogers Myers, Kevin Sheahan, Kathy Swaim, Bob Reeves, Rick Brandeberg, Stephen K. Davis, Robert Guillen, Hal Nachenberg, Dr. Philip Loring, Patricia Knight, Evelyn Burge, Betty Zamost, Patrick Zarate, Colleen Kelly, Joseph Narkevitz, Robert Reed, Aubrey Towler, Mike McKelroy, Earl Dunavan, Volney Dunavan, Dr. Bob Delzell, Bill Schmidt, Mike Silkwood, Bob Adams, Dr. Cal Farmer, Jeannette Villanueva-Walker, Sonja Musgrove, Madeline Lee, Sue Duffy, Charles Lowrance, Marie Williams, Nancy Joseph, Gene Ogden, and Francisco Gamboa.

I offer my sincere thanks and congratulations to each of the volunteers and executive committee members. Their commitment to our veterans is a tremendous contribution to our community and a much needed helping hand to our veterans.

A SALUTE TO SOME UNSUNG HEROS

HON. SCOTT L. KLUG

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. KLUG. Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues: I would like to call your attention to a great service rendered to this country by the men who served as civilian weather observers with the U.S. Weather Bureau's North Atlantic Patrol during the Second World War. These men significantly impacted the success of D-Day, and many other battles of World War II, and yet, they have never been given the public appreciation they so richly deserve.

One of my constituents, Mr. Ray McCool, told me of these men, serving in the North Atlantic Weather Patrol aboard Coast Guard vessels, who obtained and transmitted essential weather data to Washington, DC. As a result, they made possible the preparation of weather maps used throughout the war. In fact, their long-range forecasts provided vital information needed to plan the D-Day invasion. Their knowledge and talents made an enormous difference in the success of the overall mission and ultimately in an allied victory.

Their service was not without danger and sacrifice. Under the Geneva Convention articles of War, the rules for treating military prisoners did not apply to civilians. Therefore capture by the enemy most likely meant being treated as a spy and shot. To prevent this, they were outfitted in Coast Guard uniforms, carried as chief petty officers and enlisted into the service as "U.S. Coast Guard Temporary Reserves."

If capture by the enemy wasn't worry enough, they had the high seas and enemy ships to face. A typical mission took these men out to sea for 4 to 6 weeks at a time where they dealt with hurricanes and attacks from depth charges, U-boats, and German submarines.

To date, the United States has never fully recognized the invaluable job these civilian weather observers performed.

Today, let the record show we salute these unsung heroes and acknowledge their service to our Nation. Further, in order to show our proper recognition, I am recommending that each local veteran's office present a U.S. flag to the family of a deceased member of this elite ensemble of men. In the face of danger and against the odds, these men stood tall and answered our country's call to freedom, and for that the United States of America is forever grateful.

TRIBUTE TO KFMO RADIO OF PARK HILLS, MO

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to KFMO Radio of Park Hills, MO. A friend to the Eighth Congressional District, KFMO recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The first radio station in Park Hills, KFMO began serving the folks of Park Hills, MO, on